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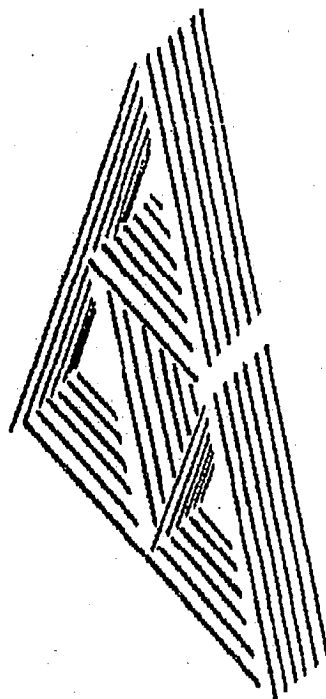
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**Foundation  
for  
Immunotoxicology**



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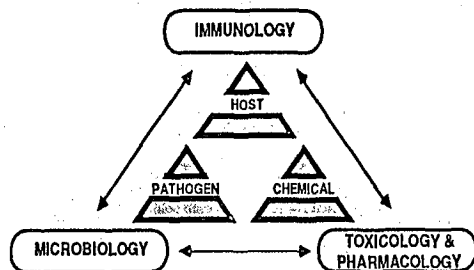
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## Why a foundation for immunotoxicology?

Immunotoxicology is now emerging as a new field that integrates skills of scientists trained in infectious diseases, immunity, and allergy, and pharmacology and toxicology. The Foundation has as one of its objectives support for training of new scientists who have the skills to identify risk from exposure to chemicals or drugs. Another objective of the Foundation is to support research which will enable us to prevent or treat injury to the immune system.

The Foundation has as one of its goals a campaign to alert the public to potential risks, to advise manufacturers and other users of chemicals and drugs of potential risks and to encourage scientists in different fields of study to share information in order to make the best judgements about risks, steps to reduce risks and means to treat injury to the immune system.

The Foundation for Immunotoxicology raises and distributes funds for public education, technical training and research on immunotoxicology. Gifts may be unrestricted or restricted to public immunotoxicology. Strategies on use of funds are based upon the recommendations of a national committee of distinguished senior scientists.



## What is immunotoxicology ?

The immune system enables a human being to live comfortably in an environment that includes infectious agents and a variety of foreign substances such as industrial pollutants and environmental chemicals. Accordingly, the study of the immune system, or immunology, is playing an increasingly important role in the assessment of the safety of drugs and chemicals. A substance markedly altering the immune system may adversely exaggerate the immune response (allergy) or may impair the immune response (increased susceptibility to infections). Effects on the immune system may be one of the most sensitive indicators of an adverse action of a chemical on man. Immunotoxicology is the study of the harmful effects of chemicals and drugs on the immune system.

Man is exposed to a very large number of chemicals and drugs. Some of these are found in food, the clothes we wear and cosmetics. The drugs are given to treat infections, high blood pressure, anxiety or pain. Man is also exposed to a large number of chemicals in the workplace, at home and in the outdoors. Chemicals are used to kill weeds and insects, to fertilize crops, to preserve wood, for cleaning and for manufacturing.

Chemicals and drugs are essential for our well being but some chemicals present a risk to man. In immunotoxicology, we attempt to identify the risk to the immune system resulting from exposure to a chemical or drug.

## Activities of the foundation for immunotoxicology

1. Support of graduate student research training.
2. Support of postdoctoral research training.
3. Support of basic research on immunotoxicology.
4. Sponsorship of technical conference for the exchange of information on immunotoxicology and risk assessment.
5. Sponsorship of technical speakers for lay groups.
6. Compilation and distribution of useful information on immunotoxicology for the general public.